



World Christian Fellowship

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Test yourself- Are you a Christian?

Part 02

3. Obedience to Word of God

1 John 2:3, *Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments.*

The Greek word translated "keep" in verse 3 speaks of

- watchful,
- careful, and
- thoughtful obedience.

It involves not only the act of obedience, but also the spirit of obedience, a willing, habitual safeguarding of the Word, not just in letter but in spirit.

The word translated "commandments," which refers specifically to the precepts of Christ rather than laws in general.

Ask yourself whether you obey the commandments of Scripture?

Jesus made this amply clear.

John 14:15, *"If you love Me, keep My commandments.*

John 14:21, *He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him."*

John 15:10, *"If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love.*

Jesus described a true disciple when giving His Great Commission to go into all the world and make disciples.

Matthew 28:20, *teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."* Amen.

Obedience to the commands of God produces assurance of confidence of knowing for sure "that we have come to know Him."

Legal obedience demands perfection or penalty, whereas here apostle John call to gracious obedience because of the penalty Christ has already paid.

1 John 2:4-5, *He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. ⁵But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him.*

1 John 5:3, *For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.*

How can you determine if you are a true Christian?

Not by sentiment but by obedience.

- If you desire to obey the Word out of gratitude for all Christ has done for you,
- If you see that desire producing an overall pattern of obedience,

You have passed an important test indicating the presence of saving faith.

4. Hating Evil

1 John 2:15, *Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.*

This love speaks of our deepest constraints, our most compelling emotions, and goals. Christians won't feel that way toward anything in this world because they know that until Christ returns, this world is dominated by God's enemy.

1 John 5:19, *We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one.*

Satan, for now, is "the god of this world" (2 Corinthians 4:4).

The evil one has designed a system that the Bible simply calls "the world."

The Greek term (kosmos) speaks of a system encompassing false religion, philosophy, crime, immorality, materialism, and the like.

When you become a Christian, such things repel you, not attract you. Sometimes you may be lured into worldly things, but it isn't what you love but it is what you hate.

Paul felt that way when he fell into sin.

Romans 7:15, *For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do.*

As frustrating as it is to fall like that from time to time, we who are believers can be grateful that sin is something we hate and not love. That's because our new life in Christ plants within us love for God and the things of God.

1 John 2:16-17, *For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. ¹⁷ And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.*

The world and its fleshly preoccupations are but temporary realities. The true believer, in contrast, has eternal life and will abide forever.

James wrote about loving the world.

James 4:4-5, *Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. ⁵Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, "The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously"?*

Hebrews 1:9, *You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You With the oil of gladness more than Your companions."*

Jesus said those who follow Him are not of the world just as He was not of the world. We still move about in it to do His will if we are alive, but we are not of it. That's why Jesus prayed specifically for the Father to keep us from the evil one.

John 17:14 -16, *I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁵I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. ¹⁶They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.*

We are vulnerable to be sucked into this evil world's system now and then, but our love is toward God.

That love is what will draw us out and redirect our focus toward heavenly priorities!

Do you reject the world?

Do you reject its false religions, damning ideologies, godless living, and vain pursuits?

Instead, do you love God, His truth, His kingdom, and all that He stands for?

That doesn't come naturally to any man or woman because the human tendency is to love darkness rather than light to mask evil deeds.

John 3:19-21, *And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. ²⁰For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. ²¹But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God."*

Unbelievers are of their father the devil and want to do the desires of their father (John 8:44).

If you reject the world and its devilish desires, that is an indication of new life in Christ.